

Council on Aging Board Meeting
November 9, 2005

In Attendance:

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Lillian Goodman, Tim Swiss and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager was also present. Board Member Helen McLaughlin was excused.

1. Chairman's Comments:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:10am. The minutes of the October 12, 2005 meeting were accepted and approved by the board with one correction made to the Chairman's comments i.e. the last sentence of the first paragraph was removed to clarify the question of "direct services" provided by the COA.

Paul noted the resignation of Al Crommett from the board after many years of service. Letters of appreciation from the town manager and the board have been sent to Al.

2. Director's Comments:

Sharon reported on the results of recent meetings of the Newsletter Committee. Because of an expected increase in printing costs the Newsletter will be cut back from 12 to 8 pages for the first quarter of 2006. With the present complement of advertisers the costs should be covered for the year ahead. The committee is still working on material to be cut out to accommodate an 8 page paper.

Sharon also reported on the many negative effects of Medicare D on the Shine program throughout central Mass. CMACA has decided it can no longer manage Shine beyond the fiscal year ; Milford COA will assume more responsibility and with limited resources some prioritizing of clients to be served will take place. More developments will no doubt occur as Medicare D becomes effective and service providers come along with more options for clients to consider.

3. Liaison Reports:

Friends of the SCC, Inc.: Helene reported that the Friends have committed funds (\$5000) to help those people requiring fuel assistance this year. Administration and selection of the agency for distribution of the money are a work in process.

Sharon reported that she had received "minutes" from the Shrewsbury Comm. Part. /Children meeting.

Elder Services, Worcester/Outreach: Walter Rice submitted his monthly report of activities. He has decided to postpone the "stress management" training program he had planned at the Senior Housing Facilities.

4. Old Business:

Transportation Sub-committee Chairman Tim Swiss provided the board with statistics for van operations in September and commented on the conclusions of the sub-committee's recent meeting which Town Manager Dan Morgado attended. The central point of discussion was how to maximize use of the Town owned van. The recommendation is to try to "broker out" rides for ADA clients less than 60 years of age

Survey update---Sharon has concluded that the age of the survey data creates doubt of its value considering the dramatic changes coming along in '06 with the first "baby boomers" reaching 60!Perhaps we should budget now for a new survey in '07 or '08.

5. New Business:

Paul provided the board with a copy of proposed changes in State legislation on property tax relief for seniors. Some of the issues he has been working on with Rep.Karyn Polito and others are not included so they may seek amendments before action is taken on the proposal.

6. Other:

Lillian reported that the Health Committee will be taking a sabbatical for the winter.

Respectfully submitted,

John Concordia, Secretary